

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Tsunami victims still hurting, in need

Editor's note: As Americans brace for a momentous hurricane season and contemplate the implications of the London subway/bus bombings, memories have dimmed of the devastating December 26 tsunami in Southeast Asia. News crews have moved on, but the tsunami's surviving victims haven't and their needs remain as great as ever. A recent tour of a destroyed area in Indonesia, which included conversations with Southern Baptist volunteers still on the scene, brought home that fact.

SOUTHEAST ASIA (BP and local reports) — Foam mattresses, half-open suitcases, and footlockers fill all available floor space. Shelves bulge with medical supplies and medicines. Hot, sweaty Americans sprawl on the front porch and in the courtyard, almost too exhausted to talk about their day. Welcome to the volunteer team house for tsunami disaster relief, where up to 60 volunteers from Southern Baptist churches across the United States eat together, sleep on the floor, and share just about everything in order to help victims of last December's devastating tsunami.

"It's hard to describe the mass destruction here," volunteer Royce Sweatman says as he stands next to a coal barge blocking what used to be a highway. "As far as your eye can see, it's a bunch of rubble, Sweatman, of Arkansas, says. "There's so much that needs to be done. It just breaks your heart."

A number of Mississippi Baptists, including medical personnel and experienced disaster recovery veterans, have made the long journey to volunteer in Indonesia since the tsunami struck.

Days start early for the volunteers. They cram into various means of transportation, from pickups to canoes, to journey into affected areas and help pick up the pieces. They do everything from medical clinics to fogging for mosquitoes, working practically from sunup to sundown.

Emotions range from tears to laughter in just seconds, as volunteers gain insights into the culture and hear "war stories" from tsunami survivors. A Baptist from Washington state listens to a



HEALING TOUCH — A man in Aceh, Indonesia, receives medical care recently from volunteers Donald Kuenzi (right), a physician from Kansas City, Mo., and Nicki Crow, a nurse from Liberty, Mo. Many Indonesian medical professionals were among those killed in the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami, so even though hospitals have reopened, many are not operating at full capacity. (BP photo courtesy of IMB)

90-year-old who lost more than 100 family members recounts her story as the volunteer treats her for hypertension.

The clinic grinds to an abrupt halt when the call to prayer beckons most of the waiting patients to the local mosque for afternoon prayers.

Relief coordinators in Indonesia are asking prayer for volunteers who are helping in the affected areas — for physical, emotional and spiritual health as they pour themselves into the needs of tsunami victims. Among other prayer needs:

- Wisdom as International Mission Board (IMB) personnel continue seeking ways to share God's love.

- The hearts of the people affected by the disaster. The tsunami touched thousands of lives, and they are all asking questions about why they survived. Pray that the Holy Spirit helps them find peace and answers through Jesus Christ.

- Discernment for victims as they work with aid organizations. Pray that God will shield their eyes from untruths and will protect them from scams and corruption.

For more information on tsunami relief efforts and ministry opportunities, go to <http://www.go2southasia.org> and <http://imb.org/pacrim/>. For information on volunteering, contact IMB at (800) 999-3113.

Miss. CP rises in June

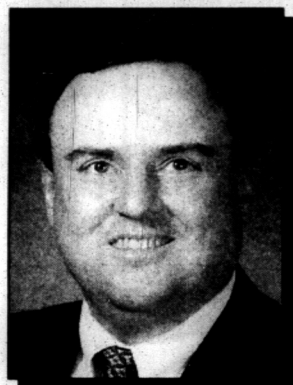
Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in June topped three million dollars for the second time this year, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The June total of \$3,001,697 is 4.1% higher than the \$2,883,335 given in the same period in 2004. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$16,656,451, which is 4.9% above last year's giving during the same period and 6.4% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2005 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2004 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2005. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Lad/Dad Weekend on July 15 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, CentriKid on July 21 at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian, and Mississippi Baptist Youth Night on July 22 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

SBC CP down for month

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for June were \$12,555,627 — 4.3% below the \$13,123,061.27 received in June 2004, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. As of June 30, 2005, the year-to-date total of \$145,017,124 for CP Missions is \$2,197,985, or 1.5%, ahead of the \$142,819,139 received at the same point in 2004. Designated giving of \$170,898,017 for the same year-to-date period is one-half percent, or \$801,396, below gifts of \$171,699,413 received at this point last year. The \$13,541,584 in designated gifts received last month is \$5,631,556 below the \$19,173,140 received in June 2004, a decrease of 29.4%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$145,017,124 is 105.5% of the \$137,401,271 budgeted, or \$7,615,853 above budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. At the close of their last fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2003 to Sept. 30, 2004, Southern Baptists recorded a 3.64% increase in CP giving, for a record total of \$189,865,255. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.



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Our greatest means of saving the world

In the sweep of two days in late June, Canada and Spain became the third and fourth countries in the world to legitimize homosexual marriage on a par with marriage between a man and a woman. The Netherlands and Belgium are the other countries that recognize full homosexual marriage.

To listen to Canadian and Spanish supporters of the legislation in their countries, one would be tempted to believe these two events were on a par with curing cancer and stamping out global hunger. "This is a proud and exciting time to be a Canadian, as we have affirmed once again our world-wide reputation as a country that is open, inclusive and welcoming," said Alex Munter of Canadians for Equal Marriage, in a statement after the legislation's June 28 approval in the House of Commons by a vote of 158-133.

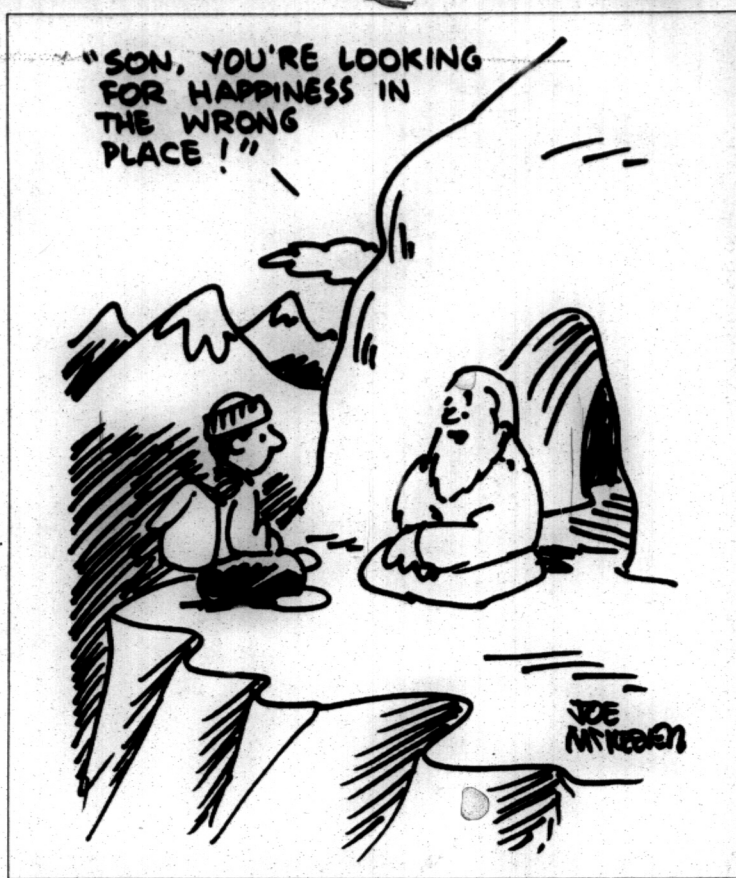
The legislation is expected to sail through the Canadian Senate and land on the desk of the country's prime minister, who has already promised to sign it.

"It is a historic day for the world's homosexuals. We have been fighting for many years.

Now comes the hardest part, which is changing society's mentality," said Spanish homosexual rights activist Beatriz Gimeno, president of the State Federation of Gays, Lesbians and Transgenders, upon hearing of the 187-147 affirmative vote on June 30 in the Congress of Deputies.

In the U.S., the state of Massachusetts has legalized homosexual marriage, while the state of Vermont recognizes civil unions between homosexuals. The same hyperbole can be found among homosexual rights supporters in American locales.

"We're living in historic times that will be looked back on by generations to follow.



This isn't just one historic moment in Massachusetts... it's the start of what will be a long period of progress and breakthroughs, with gay couples in other states also winning the right to marry and finally being treated equally under the law," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal, an organization that is pushing homosexual rights nationwide.

"The same values that led us to recognize and respect marriages between different-sex couples, should inspire us to recognize and respect marriages of same-sex couples. Recognition of same-sex couples and their families would be a positive addition to the

diversity in our communities," according to a recent entry on the web site of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Sometimes it appears that the homosexual rights wildfire, fanned by glowing reports from a pliant news media and positive statements from fawning politicians, is sweeping our nation and even the entire world. It's hard to get a fair hearing on the subject in many places, and legitimate debate has been virtually snuffed out everywhere by the misapplication of hate crime laws and other preemptive measures that serve to chill free speech.

Christian churches, and more specifically Baptist churches, can lead the way against what we know to be a sin. In our hedonistic, religion-free modern culture where anything goes and everything is permissible, we must continue to fight against sin by first getting our own lives in order (Romans 1:18-2:29), then speaking out

against sin in the public square where we have a right to be present, and most important, effectively utilizing our greatest means of convicting a lost world of their sins: the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

No law, no debate, no army will ever overcome the Gospel. Let us not get so caught up in intellectual chatter and endless arguments that we fail to invoke the simple, profound idea that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16).

It really is that simple, and that profound. It's time we came to that realization and got down to work (Matthew 28:18-20). Onward, Christian Soldiers!

TWICE-BLESSED:



My life as a bivo pastor

By Joe Young
Charleston

As a young man of 18, I walked down an aisle and told my pastor and the church that I sensed a call to special ministry. The pastor shared my decision with the church, and one by one people came to shake my hand, encourage me, congratulate me, and — more often than not — give me advice.

The main advice was, "Son, step out of faith and be sold out to the Lord. Quit your job, get an education, and be a full-time preacher." (Emphasis mine.) I listened, and I did: college, seminary, and 12 years of full-time, fully-compensated pastorates and no other jobs.

Circumstances changed, and one night during a storm after a Brotherhood meeting I was asked to take a job finishing the school year for a teacher who had a stroke. I reluctantly agreed, feeling a good bit of guilt because I wondered if I could still be "sold out" to the Lord.

Soon I noticed that I was being a witness for Christ among people with whom I previously would never have had contact — teenagers, children, African-Americans, athletes, and others. I'm still a teacher 23 years later.

I remember my first teaching convert. A preteen African-American girl came to me after

class and told me she had been to a revival. She has lots of questions and asked, "Aren't you a priest or something?" I replied, "or something," and made an appointment with her to meet later in the day, with her mother's permission.

She accepted Christ and was soon baptized in her mother's church.

There are many instances when God used me in ways I would have never known, had I just been a pastor with no other vocation. I'm glad now that God blessed me twice, with the call to be both a pastor and work in another vocation as well.

Everyone knows that the Apostle Paul was bivocational. He might never have known folks like Aquila and Priscilla, had he not been a tentmaker. God uses bivocational ministers.

I've been glad to have my teaching job, because it provided me with income and insurance for my family. It also allowed me to serve in churches that otherwise might not have been able to afford trained leadership. I've been blessed to be a planter of new churches and to lead in reopening some church doors that were once closed. As a Spanish teacher, I've had the privilege of seeing my students go on missions and even plant a few Hispanic churches.

Some still say I'm not a "full-time preacher." Maybe not, but I preach twice every Sunday in English and twice in Spanish.

I'm bivocational, hard-headed, and stubborn. One would expect me to think all ministers should be bivos. Not really, but I do have an idea

that we have more than one spiritual gift that God can use. When we sharpen those skills, we will find new doors opening for the Gospel:

- Like a pastor in the National Guard.
- Like a pastor who coaches baseball.
- Like a pastor who repairs computers.
- Like a pastor who is also a well-known bass fisherman.
- Like a former director of missions who helped start the catfish industry.
- Like an English teacher who is planting churches in Moldova.

Maybe I really do believe every minister should have another career outside the church setting — where most of the lost people are — for more reasons than financial. It's a point of entry for a new kind of witness. Try it and see. I believe you'll be twice blessed. Let me know if I am right.

Young, a bivocational pastor to the staff at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman for 20 years, teaches in East Tallahatchie Consolidated School District in Charleston and at Northwest Community College in Senatobia.

Gaines called to pastor Bellevue Church

CORDOVA, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Mississippi native Steve Gaines, pastor of Gardendale's First Church in Gardendale, Al., for the past 14 years, will be the new pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis as members of one of the largest congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) overwhelmingly voted July 10 to call him.

Gaines was born in Corinth on December 31, 1957, and grew up in Dyersburg, Tn. He takes over for Adrian Rogers, Bellevue's pastor of 32 years who retired earlier this year. Gaines, a popular preacher and conference leader across the SBC, has preached at the annual Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"We'll give you everything we have," Gaines said after the church voted to call him. "I don't know all the answers. I don't even know if I know all the questions, but I know the Lord, and I know He has done all things well, and He will do a wonderful work through all of us."

Bellevue's pastor search committee began its work eight months ago, shortly after Rogers announced his retirement. Chairman Chuck Taylor said the 10-member committee received more than 170 recommendations, with each being carefully considered and researched by committee members.

The committee voted unanimously on June 12 to recommend Gaines to the church as Bellevue's next pastor. "We knew that [God] would lead us to His man, and He has done that today," Taylor told the church.

At the end of each of two morning worship services, the church went into a business session to act on the search committee's recommendation. Each committee member spoke briefly about why he or she believed Gaines is God's man for Bellevue.

Harry Smith, Bellevue's chairman of deacons and vice chairman of the search committee, asked those in favor of the recommendation to stand, and the entire church rose.

Gaines and his family came back into the sanctuary, where Smith asked him, "Will you come and be our new pastor?"

"Yes, I will," Gaines replied.

Rogers, Bellevue's pastor emeritus, was on hand for the occasion and spoke to the



GAINES CALLED — Steve Gaines preaches at Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis on July 10. The Gardendale, Al., pastor received overwhelming support as Adrian Rogers' successor at the Memphis-area church. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

church and to Gaines after the vote. "I am so happy. I am so thrilled," Rogers said. "I've been sitting out there weeping and laughing, praising our great God."

Gaines will be Rogers' first pastor since Rogers was 19 years old. "We gladly receive you as our pastor and first lady. We will listen to you, we will love you, we will support you and pray for you," Rogers said. "We will do anything that we can do to make your ministry all that God wants to be."

Gaines told Bellevue he and his family never intended to leave the Birmingham-area Gardendale church, that his plan was to stay there for the rest of his life.

"There may not be, in that regard, a human reason why we're here, but I believe there's a heavenly reason why we're here," Gaines said. "Today's not about Steve Gaines and it's not even about Bellevue Baptist Church. Today is about the Kingdom of God and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ."

In his sermon, Gaines preached from Acts 9:31 about the marks of a healthy church.

While some may suggest that the idea of preaching behind a pulpit is passé, and that churches shouldn't take stands on moral issues of the day like abortion, homosexuality, and gambling, Gaines said he disagrees. He also doesn't support the trend of churches that embrace technology and water down their message.

"You can have all of the new techniques, all of the state of the art media and technology," Gaines said. "You can have all the latest programs and the bells and whistles and still not have a healthy church in the eyes of God."

A healthy church is characterized by peace, edification, reverence, spirituality and growth, Gaines said. "We need to stop talking about church growth," Gaines said. "We need to talk about church health. A healthy church will grow."

Gaines pastored churches in Tennessee and Texas prior to accepting the call to pastor Gardendale's First Church.

Since Gaines began his ministry at Gardendale in 1991, the church's average morning worship attendance has increased from 1,600 to 3,300. The church has baptized 3,251 people during that time, leading the Alabama Baptist State Convention in baptisms seven times over the past 10 years.

Rankin writes book

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — The International Mission Board (IMB) vision for Kingdom growth is laid out in a new book by IMB President Jerry Rankin titled, *Empowering Kingdom Growth: To the Ends of the Earth*. In the book, the Mississippi native shares not only the vision but also practical ways Southern Baptists can become involved in carrying out the Great Commission. While the book seeks to help pastors encourage and inform their congregations, Rankin hopes the book also will be useful to missionaries, volunteers, and others with hearts for the lost world. He envisions the stories helping readers see how God is working and want to be a part of the mission. "It is a vision that is greater than church or denominational growth," Rankin writes in the book. "It is bigger than our programs. It is a God-sized vision for impacting our world for Jesus Christ. Every Southern Baptist Convention entity — whether an association, a state convention or mission [board] — exists only to serve, equip and enable churches and the people of God to fulfill the Great Commission." Rankin challenges believers to see the Great Commission as their responsibility and to take ownership of the responsibility by finding ways to reach the lost. Rankin said he has wanted "to write such a book for several years to communicate the compelling vision and passion driving our mission efforts, to communicate our contemporary mission strategies and to challenge churches to become involved with us." "The more I wrote," he said, "the more humbled I was to realize the privilege I had of being a part of the tremendous things God is doing, and I desired more than ever that all Southern Baptists would join God on mission to reach the ends of the earth. *Empowering Kingdom Growth: To the Ends of the Earth*, is available for \$19.99 at LifeWay Christian Stores and through IMB at <http://resources.imb.org> or (800) 999-3113.

Looking back

10 years ago

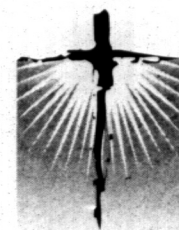
Andrew Estus Mason, age 83, pastor emeritus of First Church, Crystal Springs, dies recently of heart failure at his Crystal Springs home. He pastored the church for 25 years.

20 years ago

Plainway Church, Laurel, honors pastor Harold Ishee for 35 years of service to the church by dedicating a portrait that will hang in the church foyer. Ishee has been Plainway's only pastor, and Plainway has been Ishee's sole pastorate.

50 years ago

Wake Forest College, new national college baseball champs, is criticized for playing a game on Sunday. College president Harold D. Tribble said, "If I had known about this Sunday game, I would have never given permission for it to be played."



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THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST
Record

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**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

WHAT IS YOUR NUISANCE SPOT?

A friend of mine was a painting contractor with many crews and a lot of equipment. He took pride in the fact that they could paint just about anything and do a great job at it, too. He enjoyed his work and would tell me about various projects he had going. One day he wanted me to go with him and see a house that they had contracted to paint. It was a new multi-million dollar home and they were painting everything inside and outside. It was not an unusual looking house except in size and it appeared to be four or five times larger than a normal house. We went to see the house where his men were still working. We had hardly gotten out of the truck and started walking around the house looking at the job when I noticed a spot that they had missed painting up in the corner at the front of the house. Now it wasn't missed altogether, but it was like the second coat had not been applied at this spot. Showing off my artistic eagle eye I pointed out to him that his guys had missed a spot. He smiled really big and said, "Yeah, I know." We walked on around and as he talked to some of his men I looked at their work and there on the side of the house was another missed place. When I told him he just smiled and nodded his head. Now honestly I was thinking to myself these guys are supposed to be good but they are not near what they are cracked-up to be. I was thinking here I am with virtually no painting experience or knowledge and even I can pick out some places where they blundered. As we walked on around checking out the job, I just asked him, "Why don't you take a cou-



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

ple of your guys and tell them to go back there and touchup the areas they missed." He smiled and said, "No, absolutely not!" I said, "Why not?" He said, "Well, those are the nuisance spots."

Now he had just stepped off into the secret code language of painters, and I didn't have a clue as to what he was saying. I confess I didn't know what a nuisance spot was. He said, "Well, it is a spot on a job which is sometimes intentionally left and sometime unintentionally left. The person who is having the job done, in this case the lady, who is building the house, comes and checks things over at least once a day. She saw the spot the very first day and every time she comes she points out the spot." I said, "And?" He said, "Well, she will pull up here at the job, get out of her car, and see the first nuisance spot that has not been corrected. She will quickly move to the one that you found on the side and point out that it has not been corrected. Basically, that is all she sees." I said, "Are you serious?" He said, "As a heart attack. We could paint the back of the house purple and she probably would never notice it." I said, "Well, what do you do about the nuisance spot?" He responded, "Well, when we are finishing up the job, probably when she is out here with us, I will have a couple of our guys touchup those two spots completely to her liking.

She will be thrilled and we will be through." I was amazed.

That incident took place several years ago and through the years that have passed, I have watched, and in virtually every area of life I have observed that we all have nuisance spots we keep an eye on. Church folks especially have nuisance spots and sometimes they become obsessions with them. If you listen you will hear folks talk about and explain their nuisance spot. Sometimes it will be uncovered by them saying, "Why don't they do something about...?" Then they will talk about their nuisance spot.

Not everybody's spot is the same. It is just interesting what people zero in on and that is about all that they see. For some it has to do with parking, with others it is the temperature, and for others it has to do with the nursery. The list of nuisance spots is probably virtually endless. For some it is the preacher's tie, for others it is the Sunday School teacher, and for some it is the music. For some it is the use of hymns and for others it is the one moment in the service when a chorus appears. For a few it is the upkeep of the building and for others it is the landscape and shrubbery. For some it is the time of activities and the change of the schedule. For others it is the way some people dress when they come to church. For some it is a staff member and for others it is a fellow church member. For some it is the over extended activities and trips taken by people in the church and for others it is the lack of those activities and trips. It could be the sound system, the pipe organ, the lack of a pipe organ, the seating arrangement in the choir, the size of the pulpit, the fact that there is no pulpit, the deacons are too powerful, the deacons not taking a stand, the

mission offerings, the lack of support of mission offerings, the lack of a bulletin, the color of the bulletin, not following the bulletin — enough is enough.

Please rest assured that is hardly even the beginning of the list. Some of that list and some of those things are good and valid, and we can express praise and appreciation for people having concern about such things. On the other hand if we are not careful we will be so focused on the nuisance spot that we miss the big ideas, the grand work of God in totality, the big picture, and the beauty that exists just beyond the spot that we see.

I wonder what Jesus saw the disciples focused on when He spoke these words, "Say not ye there are yet four months then cometh harvest. Behold I say unto you lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest." Many of you recognize that verse from John 4:35, but just preceding that verse Jesus abruptly tells them to look on the world ready for harvest. Apparently, only one thing had been in their focus. Jesus had talked to the Samaritan woman at the well. She had heard that He was the Messiah, and obviously, her life was never to be the same. In fact, in John 4:29, she said to the people in the town, "Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?" Their eyes focused on a woman that they were not sure about, an issue that disturbed them, and no doubt was beyond their comprehension. For God to care about a woman was an incredible thing to them. For Him to care about saving a Samaritan woman, a Samaritan woman with a bad reputation was beyond anything they could grasp. Then Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes." Could it be that He was telling them, "Guys just stop looking at the nuisance spot and see the bigger, larger, and more glorious God touched picture." What is your nuisance spot?

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- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisors are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 14, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



**wMu Discover
the Joy of
Missions
Conference
and Missions
Weekender at
Ridgecrest**

"Bus Trip A" will be attending both the training conference and missions weekender.

"Bus Trip B" will only attend the missions weekender.

Twenty-nine passenger buses are provided by Cline Tours.

Bus Trip A

Sept. 27 - Oct. 2
Includes program fee,
conference lodging
(double occupancy)
and transportation
\$600 per person

PRICE
UPDATE

Bus Trip B

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2
Includes program fee,
conference lodging
(double occupancy)
and transportation
\$450 per person

Registration Deadline: July 27

No refunds after August 1. Substitutions allowed.

Contact the state wMu for more info: 1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-3319 or www.mbc.org

FLAKE'S FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE

Building an Acts 1:8 Sunday School through Bible Study

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR ALL AGE GROUPS

Each location will have the following age group trainings: Younger Preschool, Older Preschool, Younger Children, Middle Children, Older Children, Younger Youth, Older Youth, Younger Adult, Middle Adult, Senior Adult, General Officers, and Pastors



July 29-30, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 29th - 8:30-noon, 30th
Longview Heights Baptist Church
Olive Branch, Mississippi

SPECIAL GUEST: GENE MIMS



August 5-6, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 5th - 8:30-noon, 6th
Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Madison, Mississippi

SPECIAL GUEST: KEN HEMPHILL



October 21-22, 2005

6:30-9 p.m., 21st - 8:30-noon, 22nd
First Baptist Church
Biloxi, Mississippi

SPECIAL GUEST: KEN MARLER

For more info, contact the Sunday School Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3291



Special Ministries Retreat September 30 - October 1 Camp Garaywa

For exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers & friends
GAMES, BIBLE STUDY, SINGING, MOVIES AND LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

Registration begins at 3 p.m. on Sept. 30 and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on October 1. Cost includes overnight lodging and three meals. One adult counselor for every five campers of the same sex.

More info? Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION FORM - SPECIAL MINISTRIES RETREAT

Church _____
Address _____
Contact person _____
No. of campers _____ M _____ F
No. of counselors _____ M _____ F

Cost: \$37.50 per person
(Due by Sept. 15)/payable to MBCB

Mail to: Special Ministries
Sunday School Dept.
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



Christ Followers

"Following Christ"

WOMEN'S RETREAT

October 28-29, 2005

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

*Calling all women to come refresh,
relax, reflect and renew as we
follow Jesus Christ into the next year.*

MAIN EVENTS INCLUDE:

Friday, October 28

3:00 p.m. Registration
6:30 Worship Celebration I
8:00 Beauty Before Bedtime

Saturday, October 29

8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration II
10:00 Breakout Sessions
11:30 Worship Celebration III
3:00 p.m. Check Out

Featuring

Bible Study
Leader
Sister Janet
Rayford

Last Frontier
Missionary
"Shea"

Music Worship
Kathy Lee

Spanish Sessions
Mirta Vazques

Breast Cancer
Survivor
Testimony
Kay Griffin

Stories
Rachel Dove
Cathy Davis

COST:

\$75 Conference, Lodging & Meals

\$55 Conference & Meals

\$20 Conference only

(No Refunds after 9/1/05, but substitutions possible)

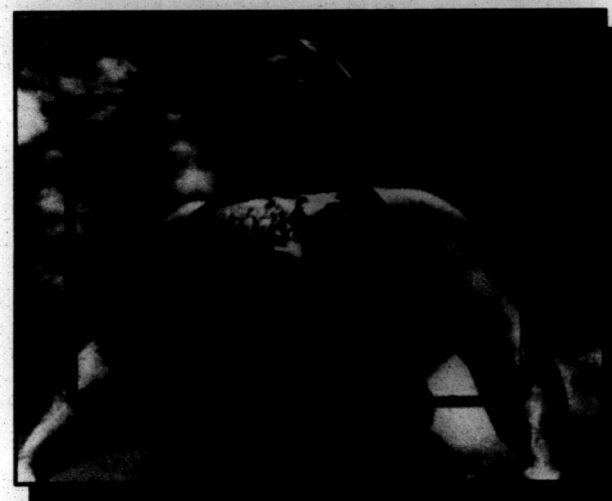
Phone reservations may be made using Visa
or MasterCard at 228-452-7261

Call Mississippi WMU for more info:
601-292-3317 or 1-800-748-1651.

Little Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

Sturgis, Miss., August 19-20

Sturgis Baptist Church Parking Lot



featuring TEAM IMPACT

An elite group of athletes performing feats
of strength you have to see to believe!

PERFORMANCES

Friday, August 19

at 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.

Saturday, August 20

at 11 a.m, 1, 3:30 & 6 p.m.

For additional information, call the MBCB
Evangelism Department at 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3278. For a rally schedule, log-on to
www.sturgismsrally.com

State Senior Adult Rally



FBC, Jackson

Thursday, August 25

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

\$1 at door

For info, call Glenn Shows
601-292-3373 or
1-800-748-1651, ext. 373

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- **Calvary BC, Tupelo**
Led by Harvey Ellis, MBCB Youth Specialist
- **FBC, Biloxi**
Led by Don Hicks, MBCB Bible Drill Consultant

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- **Calvary BC, Starkville**
Led by Harvey Ellis, MBCB Youth Specialist
- **West McComb BC, McComb**
Led by Don Hicks, MBCB Bible Drill Consultant

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- **Lauderdale Baptist Association office, Marion, Miss.**
Led by Steve Jackson, pastor, McLaurin Heights BC,
Pearl
- **Camp Garaywa, Clinton (activity building)**
Led by Don Hicks, MBCB Bible Drill Consultant

All of these clinics are scheduled for 6:30 - 8 p.m.

*Each participant will receive an instructional
video in either DVD or VCR format.*



2005 Bible Drill Clinics Red Cycle

Help for leaders of Bible
Buddies, Children's Bible Drill,
Youth Bible Drill, and Speakers
Tournament.

2005

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops

September 13-15
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

*Individual brochure coming in July
One was included in your Pastor's Packet*

Certification leader: Lana Rose
The SkillShops leader: Sandy Sigmon
▪ OFFICE MANAGEMENT I ▪ OFFICE TEAMWORK

For more info: Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305 or
E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

Senior Adults

STATE SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

To register, call 228-452-7261.

Retreat IV, September 27-29

J. Garland McKee

Cost: \$105

For more info, contact Glenn Shows at 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651
or E-mail: gshows@mbcb.org

Pastor & Staff Excellence in the Acts 1:8 Church

August 15
Hillcrest BC, New Albany

August 22
Hillcrest BC, Jackson

August 16
Calvary BC, Greenwood

August 23
38th Ave. BC, Hattiesburg

Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.
Call 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, for more information.

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee & Registration
- 8:50 a.m. Welcome
Keith Gordon
- 9:00 a.m. Acts 1:8 Overview
Steve Stone/David Michel
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Spiritual Empowerment
Ken Lyle
- 10:50 a.m. Church Expansion
Kiely Young
- 11:10 a.m. Evangelistic Awareness
David Alexander
- 11:30 a.m. Mission Kingdom Advance
Ken Rhodes
- 11:50 a.m. Prayer
- 12:00 LUNCH
(Compliments of P/LD)
- 1:00 p.m. Worship & Commitment -
Jimmy Porter



Serve by
Following
Christ

wMu

Church Missions Leadership Training

AUGUST 23
FBC, AMORY
6 - 9 p.m.

For directions call FBC, Amory
662-256-7131

AUGUST 30
MAIN STREET BC
HATTIESBURG
6 - 9 p.m.

For directions call Main Street BC
601-296-800

AUGUST 26, 3 p.m.
thru August 27, 1 p.m.
CAMP GARAYWA
CLINTON

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR GARAYWA
MEETING ONLY IS AUGUST 19, 2005

For more info or a registration form, call the
wMu at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3324.

Pray this day for...

July 15-28, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

OPENING DOORS WITH PRAYER - "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains."

Colossians 4:2-3

Charles Campbell is the student and discipleship director of prayer for the Greenville and Chicago, Illinois, Super Summer weeks (a key leadership and evangelism training time for students this summer). Also pray for 3,000-4,000 students to become Campus Missionaries for the 2005-06 school year.

For: (1) GA Acteens Summer Camp, Garaywa, 18th-22nd (WMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills, 18th-22nd (MM); (3) Intercede for a believing family that will be moving to a mega-city in Indonesia. May God give them opportunities to share His love with young working professionals.

Mrs. T, a Muslim, has recently begun to read and write Bible passages to improve her reading and writing skills. Ask the Holy Spirit to plant the Word deeply in her heart. Pray for this Kashmiri woman to respond in faith and obedience. Pray for her husband to fulfill his responsibility as the spiritual head of the home.

Jim Evatt, Anderson, S.C., is the church and community ministries coordinator for 77 churches with the Saluda Association. Pray for coordination of ministries during the summer including work with boys' and girls' clubs, evangelistic surveys, new church starts and construction teams.

For: (1) CentriKid, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 21st-23rd (MBCB/SS & LCR/SBC); (2) A Baptist representative family living in central Croatia is involved in a new economic development project of milk production from cattle. Pray that this project will open doors for the gospel to go forth in towns in central Croatia with no evangelical witness.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Jackson (Youth Ministry); (2) In late July a volunteer group from Florida will be in England focusing on a very eclectic borough in a major city. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to build His church there. Pray for the volunteers to go to other parts of England and for people to respond.

For: (1) II Centrifuge, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (LCR/SBC); (2) Thank you for praying for new believers O and M to have a strong relationship with the missionary family in Colima, Mexico. Missionaries David and Becky Haynes are leading a Bible study group in the home of O and M each Wednesday.

For: (1) III Centrifuge, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 23rd-28th (LCR/SBC); (2) World Changers, Tupelo, 23rd-30th (MM); (3) Lift up missionaries Dean and Heather White and their five children as they work alongside the nationals to plant churches among the Nyamwezi people group of Tanzania.

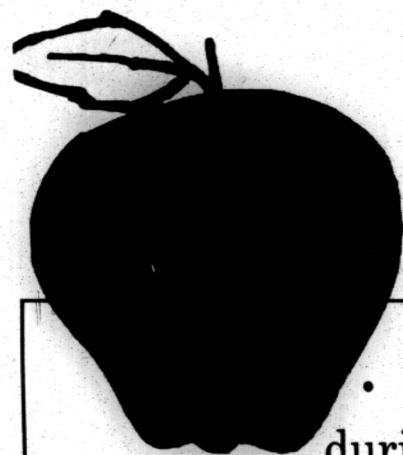
Pray for the people of China suffering from summer floods claiming the lives of more than 80 people. Millions have been left homeless in Guangxi, Fujian and Guangdong provinces, and several major cities, including Wuzhou, have been inundated. Pray that the rains will cease and flood waters will recede.

For: (1) GA Acteens Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, 25th-29th (WMU); (2) Summer Missions Camp for Boys, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, 25th-29th (MM); (3) Young Musicians Camp, Blue Mountain College, 25th-29th (CM).

Pete Rivera, Sarasota, is a field missionary for south-west and central Florida. Pray for the start of 10 new congregations including a Hungarian congregation and a Brazilian congregation. Also pray for other unreached people groups in Florida.

Hokkien Harvest-Taiwan Team missionaries are grateful for how God has blessed them through summer student workers. In the past few years, three of them came back as journeymen. Now, another plans to return to Taiwan as a journeyman. Pray that more people will commit themselves for long term ministry.

For: (1) Growing Churches Conference (Leadership Emphasis), Gulfshore, 28th-30th (SS & D&F); (2) The Jeju Island Team of South Korea, is seeking to develop a discipleship program to train new believers who are illiterate. Pray that God would give the team focus to get this task done quickly yet thoroughly.



Teacher Appreciation & PrayerWalk for Schools

**SUNDAY
JULY 31, 2005**

- Conduct a commitment service during the morning worship for school teachers and administrators.
- Pray and commission teachers and administrators as they begin the new school year.
- Request specific prayer needs from school administrators and teachers.
- Meet at the church on Sunday afternoon to PrayerWalk and/or prayer drive around the area schools.
- Share the PrayerWalk experiences during the evening service.

For more info, call Kathy Burns in the wMu at 601-292-3324 or E-mail KBurns@mbcb.org

9-9-95

MISS EMILY C. HEWITT

Parents: Earl and Ramona Hewitt
West Africa: Medicine

9-16-86

MR. MICHAEL R. HOLYFIELD

Parents: Michael and Patricia Holyfield
Central & Eastern Europe: Church Planting

9-21-92

MR. DERRICK A. DeMARS

Parents: Guy and Cindy DeMars
West Africa: Hospitality Coordinators

9-21-00

MR. JOSEPH C. PRICE

Parents: Richard and Christi Price
Central and Eastern Europe:
Medicine

9-27-83

MISS AMY K. LEE

Parents: Henry and Linda Lee
Pacific Rim: Church Planting

9-27-01

MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM

Parents: Tracy and Eugenia Putnam
Central and Eastern Europe:
Theological Education



**Encourage a
MK with a
birthday card!**

PLEASE NOTE

Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to Stewardship.

FOR SECURITY,

cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name
MBCB Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



5. Belize Mission Team, Fredonia Church, New Albany



8. Student Life Mission Camp

1. Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, will host Dallas Holm in concert July 29, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased in advance; call (601) 854-8809 for information. A love offering will be taken during the concert.
2. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing featuring Servants' Heart July 16, 6 p.m.
3. Calvary Church, Saratoga, will host a fish fry and gospel sing July 16, with the Faithway Singers of Collins and other local talent. Fish plates will be served from 3-5 p.m., with singing from 5 p.m.-until.
4. First Church, Jackson, will host a series of three Sunday School seminars, featuring a panel of four teachers and a moderator, to explain how they prepare for their lessons and how they teach. This event is open to the public and begins July 24, 4:45 p.m. For more information call Teresa Saxton at (601) 949-1941.
5. Fredonia Church, New Albany, recently sent 22 team members from the church to do mission work in Belize, conducting a three-day VBS and other services. Shown are the team members.
6. The 2nd annual Benton-Comfort Golf Tournament will be held Aug. 9 at Patrick Farms Golf Club, Jackson, to honor Gene Henderson, pastor, First Church, Brandon. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with lunch and a 1 p.m. shotgun start, four man scramble. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for a scholarship endowment to New Orleans Seminary. For more information, call Gina Kennedy at (601) 824-3674.
7. Liberty Church, Waynesboro, will host Ernie Haase and Signature Sound Quartet in concert Aug. 14, 6 p.m. For information call (601) 735-2597 or (601) 410-4904.

8. High school students from Carterville Church, Petal, spent a week at the Student Life Mission Camp in Talladega, Alabama, painting faces, leading craft times, and sharing Bible stories, among other activities. Nola Cox is shown painting a child's face during VBS.

9. First Church, Eupora, burned the bank note on their Family Life Center building June 12, which has been in use since June, 1997.

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www.mccb.org




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PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL presents

O God, Revive Me

A Day with Kay



Bible teacher and
best-selling author Kay Arthur

Worship led by
Alicia Williamson

- What would change in your life if you truly walked with God?
- What if you were to seek Him first?
- How different would your life be?

Revival *can* come to *your* life.
Discover truths from the Bible to apply *now!*
"Lord, revive me according to Your Word."

Precept Leader Day



For anyone who has led at least one "Lord" Series, PUP, NISS, In & Out, 40-Minute, Discover 4 Yourself series or any of Kay's devotionals!

- Study God's Word with other Leaders
- Fellowship and talk about your classes
- Brainstorm about Precept in your area

Come join us for this unique event!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • 431 NORTH STATE STREET • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Saturday, August 27, 2005 — A Day with Kay 9:00 am–5:00 pm

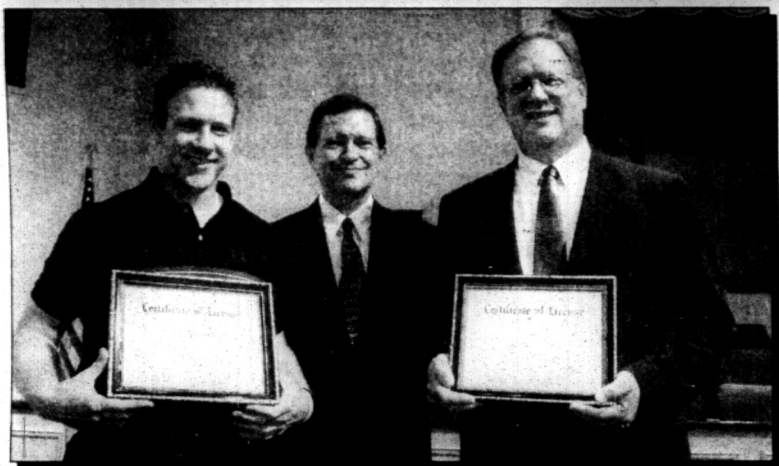
Friday, August 26, 2005 — Precept Leader Day 9:00 am–5:00 pm

	Early-bird Discount	After 8/8/05
Day with Kay ...	\$35	\$50
Leader Day	\$35	\$55
Leader Banquet	\$15	

SPECIAL DISCOUNT! Come to both the Precept Leader Day and A Day with Kay for only \$60!

Register online now at www.precept.org or call 800.763.8280 to reserve your place!

To cancel, please call 423.296.8648 or email us at events@precept.org. Your payment minus a \$15 administrative fee will be refunded if canceled by Friday, August 16, 2005.



10. McNairs, McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl

10. Eric and Brad McNair, father and son, were licensed to the ministry June 26 at McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl. Eric McNair is Associate Pastor of Worship/Senior Adults and Brad McNair recently committed his life to Christian service. Shown are Brad McNair, pastor Steve Jackson, and Eric McNair.

www.mbc.org



Aldergate Mission, WCC

Carey Dinner Theater audiences are invited to enjoy the great classics of Rogers and Hammerstein in the production of *Some Enchanted Evening* July 12-23, 7 p.m., in the O. L. Quave Theater on the WCC Hattiesburg campus. The box office is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. daily except Sunday, and seats can be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. Tickets are \$25, which includes dinner, show, and program book.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

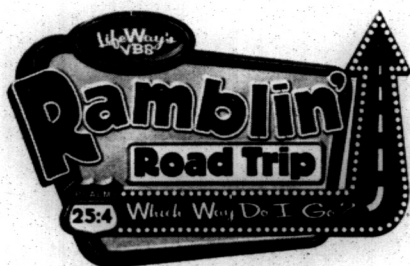
Tishomingo Chapel Church, Alcorn County: July 24-29; Sun., 5 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 5:30 p.m.; family night, Fri., 6 p.m.; preschool-Grade 6.

Elmo Church, Fayette: July 18-22, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; all ages.

Gunter Road Church, Florence: July 17-20; 6:15-7:45 p.m.; Gene Jordan, pastor. Call (601) 932-4134 for information.

Oak Grove Church, Smithdale: July 18-22, 9-11:30 a.m. For information, call (601) 567-0097.

Ramah Church, McCall Creek: July 18-22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 3 years-6th grade. For more information, call (601) 734-2240.



Calvary Church, Vicksburg: held their VBS June 6-10, with an average of 16 children in attendance nightly. The children raised \$417 to be used in buying Bibles for those in southeast Asia.

Hebron Church, Jones County: July 18-22, supper 5 p.m., 6-8:30 p.m. VBS; ages 3-6th grade.

Loop Road Church, Rich-ton: had an attendance of 120 for their VBS, June 5-10, with 24 decisions for Christ. Diane Love was VBS director.

The 14th annual Creativity Explosion will be held on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey College (WCC) July 18-20 for 2nd through 5th graders and July 19-21, for 6th through 12th graders. Registration is at 8:30 a.m., July 18, for 2nd through 6th graders, and 8:30 a.m., July 19th, for 7th through 12th graders. The program runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and cost is \$50. For more information, call Read Diket at (601) 318-6205.

William Carey College announced Danny Owens as the new head woman's soccer coach, replacing Nigel Boulton, who has been serving double duty as the head coach of both the men's and women's soccer teams.

Faculty from the WCC School of Education conducted a workshop for teachers working with the Aldersgate Mission in downtown Hattiesburg. Shown are Stacy Reeves, Mary Beard, Maria Randall, Holly Madde, Casey Etheridge, Heather Mitchell, Daisy Ewell, and Edward Duncan.

Survival Weekend 2005, hosted by the WCC BSU, will take place Aug. 12-14. The weekend is designed to help new students meet others, learn about college life, and find out more about WCC and the BSU program. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 12 in the Student Conference Center; cost is \$25 before July 27 and \$35 thereafter. For more information, call Tim Glaze at (601) 318-6161 or visit www.careybsu.org.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Being Joyful Philippians 4:4-13,19

By Rhoda Royce

In the manner of a journalist disclosing her company's corporate connections, I must confess that I don't practice what I'm about to preach, at least not very well. Someone dear to me, though, demonstrated an amazing ability to live above anxiety. My brother Phillip was a fun human being, a loving father and husband, a dedicated Christian, and a Ph.D. biophysicist, who was also a juvenile-onset diabetic. During his nine years of decline until his death at 39, I seldom saw him anxious. He said to me once that he refused to live in the "what ifs"! The Apostle Paul, imprisoned when he wrote this letter, would have approved, for living in godly joy even in seriously trying circumstances is another of the principles of victorious Christian living.

Rejoice in the Lord!

(Phil. 4:4-5) — Immediately after encouraging two Christians to "agree in the Lord," (v. 2), Paul advised Christians to "Rejoice in the Lord." Our confidence in the unvarying promises of Christ, in His forgiveness and salvation, is our common ground, the basis for the gracious gentleness that ought to typify Christians to each other and to the world. No circumstance, no disagreement, can overcome our hope in Christ, our joy, unless we allow that to happen.

Avoid Habitual Worry (Phil. 4:6-7) — My brother once said to me that he had no choice about what was happening to him, but he did have freedom about how he chose to respond to it. So do we, in most situations. Habitual, continuing anxiety damages both the body and the mind.



Royce

Instead of worrying continually, we should keep on praying, expressing to God both our needs and our thanksgiving. Then, as we acknowledge His sovereignty over every circumstance and over ourselves, we can experience His peace, even when we can't understand our situations from His eternal, omniscient perspective. In my opinion, this advice does not preclude seeking professional help for physical and mental illnesses.

Concentrate on and Do the Good (Phil. 4:8-9) — Once, I saw my brother at church happily sticking labels on hundreds of envelopes — after his sight, dexterity, hearing, and mobility were so damaged that he could no longer do the research at which he had excelled. He felt grateful to be useful. To the last week, after years of suffering, he thought about the good possible in each day, and he lived and died in God's peace. Here Paul describes an intentional thought life that can transform our lives in the peace of God's

presence. Instead of constantly thinking of our worries or our disagreements with others, we should continually "dwell on" that which is "true" (trustworthy), "honorable" (worthy of respect), "just" (righteous and fair), "pure" (set apart for a holy purpose), "lovely" (calling forth love), "commendable" (praiseworthy), morally excellent (in accordance with the highest standards of conduct), and "praiseworthy" (NIV) (worthy of praising God). Furthermore, Paul's advice is not just some self-help plan for achieving a comfortable frame of mind. God's peace helps us to do that which we dwell on. Our actions should become like our thoughts: true, honorable, just, and so on. Paul offered his own life as a model.

Be Content (Phil. 4:10-13,19) — The Philippian Christians had once again given Paul a financial gift. In thanking them, Paul shared with them the "secret of being content." In his life, Paul had known both plenty and privation. In either circumstance, Paul's contentment came from Christ's strength.

He learned to be dependent on God to become independent of spiritual misery in response to material needs. Verse 13 must be understood in context. Our spiritual abilities are all from God, and He will give them only in the context of His will.

Finally, Paul assured the Philippians that God, who had provided for his needs through their sharing, would meet their needs "according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." No greater source in the universe exists for meeting our needs. God can, in fact, enable us to live in Christian joy and peace in churches, in personal consciousness, and in circumstances of suffering, with contentment. My brother's nickname for my husband, Lee Royce, was "Rejoice," an assonant testimony to my husband's sunny nature. Yet whenever I hear those two tones (from "Rejoice, the Lord Is King") sung in my ear of memory, I'm going to try to better live up to my brother's example of Christian joy.

Rhoda Royce is a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

How to Live as Redeemed People Ezekiel 34:1-31; 35:1-15

By Don Schuman

1. Accountability of Shepherds and Flock (Ezek. 34:1-24)

Responsibility and accountability are two major themes of the book of Ezekiel. Every individual is responsible for his own sin. A nation of people is accountable for its actions. The leaders, both political and spiritual are responsible for their decisions and actions. Chapter 34, like chapter 22, focuses again on the accountability of leaders, the shepherds, and the flock.

Verse 4 is a particularly stinging charge against the "shepherds." While they enjoyed a lavish lifestyle, these "shepherds" had no regard for the sick. They did not lift up the fallen. They did not go out and seek the lost. Instead, they cruelly mistreated the sheep. This is a

reminder to us that pastors are called to be undershepherds, not German Shepherds (cf. Isaiah 56:11). Jesus described such, in John 10, as hirelings, not genuine shepherds.

God declared that he would remove those shepherds and rescue his flock. God Himself would be the Shepherd of His flock (17-22). God also promised Messiah of the lineage of David who would be Shepherd to His people (23-24).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the fulfillment of this promise of God. As the Good Shepherd He knows his own, and they know Him. They know His voice (John 10:14). He will separate those who are truly His from those who are not. Each of us will give an account of himself to the Shepherd.



Schuman

2. Security for God's People (34:25-31)

God promised a "new covenant" (Jeremiah 31:31) of peace and safety for the people of Israel. The hymn, "Showers of Blessings" is derived from the application of this passage of hope in Ezekiel. God promised them security in the land. The rains would produce abundant harvests. Their enemies would be crushed and no longer a threat. Most likely this refers to the time of the Second Coming when Jesus will establish His kingdom on earth.

God, being the God of peace, promises His children peace today through the Great Shepherd. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in

his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus promises us safety as His sheep. But better than security in the land (v.27), we have security in His hand! John 10:27-31: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." What a blessed promise of present security for God's people!

But not only do we have that present hope, we have a future hope in Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. 1 Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." There is a glorious future security for God's people.

3. Judgment on Edom (35:1-15)

In sharp contrast to the peace and safety promised Israel, Ezekiel prophesied hostility and desolation for Edom. Because she had scorn for the nation of Israel, God would have scorn for her. The desolation would be a sign of judgment of Israel's God and Edom "shall know that I am the Lord" (v. 15).

So we have two roads. One road leads to everlasting peace and security found in Jesus Christ. The other is a road of desolation that leads, as Jesus described, to destruction, where the "fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:44-49). Each one of us is accountable for the road we choose. Will we follow the Shepherd along the narrow way, or will we go our own way down the broad road to destruction? My prayer is that you have heard the voice of the Good Shepherd, you have answered that voice with repentance and faith, and are following Him, living as one redeemed.

Schuman is pastor of Hamilton Church, Ashland.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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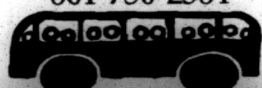
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Clue: Y = X

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FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a worship leader for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, free-flowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of youth/associate pastor. Please send resumes and references to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd., NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn: chairman, personnel committee.

Williamsburg Church, Covington-Jeff Davis Association: Revival, July 24-27; Eugene Haden, speaking; Jim Hulton, music; Dennis Campbell, pastor. For more information, call (601) 765-6536.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 17-21; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. followed by lunch, and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Bendon Ginn, speaking; Jimmy Bilbo, music; Trent Bilbo, pastor.

Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs: Revival, July 17-22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Danny Irvin, Ackerman, evangelist; Mark Giles, Grenada, music; Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.

Robinson Church, Liberty: Revival, July 15-17; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds. Victor Walsh, speaking; Wayne Hedgepeth, music; W. R. Lowery, pastor.

Providence Church, Jayess: Homecoming, July 17; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Jeff Davis, speaking; Sandy Brister, music; Ronald Satterwhite, pastor.

Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, July 17; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a memorial service and music program. Joel Haire, speaking; Oil of Gladness Worship Trio, music; Ken Parvin, pastor.

Mission Hill Church, Wesson: Homecoming, July 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Revival, July 18-20, 7 p.m.; Jimmy Porter, speaking.

Southside Church, Yazoo City: Revival, July 17-20; Sun., 10:30 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Blain McClain, Lexington, evangelist; Richard Jennings, pastor.

Corinth Church, Tillatoba: Homecoming, July 17; worship, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Roy Hartzell, speaking; Krystal Tanner, music.

White Oak Church, White Oak: Revival, July 17-22; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaking; Kent Miller, music; Tim Robertson, pastor.

Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall: Revival, July 17-20; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Brock, speaking; Daniel Lee, music; Kenneth Walters, interim pastor.

Mt. Olivet Church, Forest: Homecoming and Revival, July 17-20; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Duncan, speaking; Glenn Hayman, pastor.

Anding Church, Bentonia: Revival, July 17-20, 7 p.m.; Luke Edwards, Bentonia, speaking; Glenn Martin, Bentonia, music; Joe K. Hill, pastor.

Vaiden Church, Vaiden: Revival, July 17-20; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, speaking; Donovan McComb, music.

Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto: Revival, July 17-20; Sun., 11 a.m. with potluck lunch following, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; speakers include Danny Moss, Troy Massey, Rob Robbins, and Aaron Walker.

First Church, Satartia: Homecoming, July 17, worship, 11 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch; Revival, July 17-20, 7 p.m.; Allen Winters, speaking; Bill and Martha Martin, music; Bobby Anderson, pastor.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

STAFF CHANGES

Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian, calls Jim Rickles as pastor. A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, Rickles retired from full-time employment with the Air National Guard in 2003.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, calls Matthew Harding as minister to college stu-

dents. A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Harding served churches in North Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee before moving to Clinton.

Loop Road Church, Richton, has called Ashley Freeman as pastor. Freeman comes from Prospect Church, New Augusta.

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PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama is accepting resumes for preschool/children's minister. Please send resumes to Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

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